



Most humble

MEN ¹⁴³⁹ RANDUM ²

From Peter Blondeau,

Concerning the offers by him made to this Commonwealth, for the coyning of the monie, by a new Invention, not yet practised in any State of the world; the which will prevent counterfeiting, casting, washing and clipping of the same :

Which Coyn shall bee marked on both the flat sides, and about the thickness or the edge; of a like bigness and largeness, as the ordinarie coyn is : and will cost no more then the ordinarie unequal Coyn, which is used now.



Ince it hath been the pleasure of the Parliament and of the Council of State, to pass som Orders in relation to the preventing of the counterfeited and clipped monie, now dispersed in England, Scotland and Ireland, hee make's bold, yet with submission, to present the following particulars, contei-

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ning,

ning, besides the said ~~offers~~, First, the reason why the Coyn of this Commonwealth is clipped and light, so that few pieces are to be found weighing their true weight; As also the reason why so much fals Coyn is now ~~in~~ ^{circulated}. And secondly, the onely way to remedie the said inconveniences, and to settle a good and constant order in the Mint.

As to the first, the reason of the said abuses is becaus the monie coyned with the hammer is so easie to bee counterfeit-ed, and with so few Engines and so little expences, that thereby the fals Coyners are encouraged and their number encreased. And the dailie experience to this day shewed, that seldom or never any fals Coyners have been discovered by the nois of the hammer.

Another reason is, becaus the monie coined with the hammer, cannot bee made exactly round, nor equal in weight and bigness, and is often grossly marked, and hath many other faults, which give's a great facilitie to the fals Coyners to counterfeit and mould it; as also to the Clippers to clip it: It beeing very

hard to disc^{ern} between a clipped piece,
 and one not ^{d.} Besides, abundance
 of coyn is ^{made} too light even at the
 Mint. The said *Blondeau* himself hath re-
 ceived some ^{illings} (which hee shewed to
 the Committee for the Mint) which
 weighed some five, some six, and some seven
 pence onely; as to the contrarie, hee
 received some that weighed seventeen,
 yea, & eighteen pence; both of them made
 so at the Mint: Which inequality occasions
 several Goldsmiths and others,
 who receive the monie from the Mint, to
 cull or pick out the heaviest pieces to
 melt them; and after them, others do
 again cull or pick out the heaviest of
 them that are left, to transport them be-
 yond Seas; so that onely the light, the
 fals & the clipped monie remain's within
 the State, which turn's to the great ruine
 and destruction of Commerce, and un-
 doeth those poor people, who spend their
 monie little by little; for having some
 counterfeited or clipped pieces, they
 cannot put them off, but are forced to
 sell them, with loss, unto the Goldsmiths
 and others who can spend them among
 other moneys, or trade therein, and sell

them again to the Cashiers, Treasurers, Bankiers, Merchants and others, who make them pass afterwards among other monies; so that they return again into the hands of the poor.

The reason why the workmen of the Mint do make the coyn thus unequal in weight, and do not care to keep the true weight, is because it is sooner done. Besides, the said workmen may coyn sometimes their own silver, or may treat with those that bring their Bullion to be coyned, because they do not render the coyn by tale, but by the pound, and so still there be more pieces in number, then there should be in a pound. And the monie so coyned being distributed out of the Mint, the officers themselves and the workmen of the Mint do cull or pick out the heaviest pieces to melt them again, as they themselves have confessed before the said Committee for the Mint. And that is the thing which among themselves they call the myserie or secret of the Mint, and which is the cause that, by themselves and by their friends, they make use of all their joint power and credit, and will
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laie ou: all the Estate, and leav no stone
unmooved to consider the changing of the
waie of coyning the monie.

As to the way of remedying those
inconveniences, and settling a good
and constant order in the Mint, it
cannot bee don but by the way pro-
pounded by the said *Blondeau*, by marking
the coyn not onely on ooth the flat
sides, but also upon the thickness or the
edges.

The coyn made after that way, can-
not bee clipped without taking away
the marks that are about the thickness,
the which would bee easily perceived.
Besides, the pieces will bee of an equal
bigness and largeness; the half-crown
of the ordinarie weight and bigness,
the shilling and other pieces according-
ly; and so equal among themselves, that
it will bee impossible to take the les
thing from any of them, but it will
shew les then the rest, and so will be-
com not currant: They cannot bee al-
tered by washing or any other way, but
they will lose their bigness & glass, so
that a blindman will easily feel it.

The ordinarie coyn marked onely

on both the flat side bee moulded;
as the experience do w by the great
quantitie of fals coyne d, used, which
is currant now; but C it is marked
on the thickness or edges, the marks
about the said edges can no way bee
moulded. And though they could, yet
in that case they ought to bee fyled after
round about, specially in the place
where it hath been cast, to take away the
superfluous metal; which fyling cannot
bee don without spoiling and taking
away the said marks about the edges,
and consequently made easily known
not to bee currant.

The monie ought to bee adjusted
piece after piece, equal in weight, both
Gold and Silver. And for that end,
it is requisite that an Officer bee appoint-
ed in the Mint, whose charge should
bee to weigh the monie piece after piece
when it is finished; and in case he finde's
any piece unequal or unhandsomly
made, hee ought to reject it and give it
to bee melted again, upon the charges
of the Undertaker of the Mint, thereby
to oblige him to bee so much the more
careful: And for to hinder the conni-
vence

venge of the the said piece who might happen to
juggle with Undertaker; another
Officer may appointed, to whom
any of the people that shall finde any of
the new coined pieces lighter then it
should bee, might repair within a con-
venient time, who shall change the
said light pieces, all which shall bee put
to account to the said Officer appointed
for the weighing: But that cannot bee
don except the monie bee coyned after
the said *Peter Blondeau's* way, that is,
marked on both sides, and upon the
edges; els the Weigher might pretend it
had been clipped and made light since it
went out of his hand And the monie bee-
ing coined after the said way, besides the
hindering or removing of the aforesaid
inconveniencies, it will raise or encrease
the Exchange by about ten per centum, to
the advantage of this Common-wealth.

It is also requisite, to maintain the
standard or goodness of the coyn, that
any Goldsmith, Refiner, or other whom-
soever bee permitted to make essay of the
currant monie; and in case it bee not
found of the standard or goodness, they
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might bee allowed
appointed Officer, t
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tried again before
and the Trier of
mint; and if it
bee found that the said coyn bee not of
the due goodnes, the discoverer shall
bee rewarded at the charges of the
Trier, that hee may have a due care;
that no coyn com's out of the Mint
but such as shall bee of a due value, and
according to the order of the State.

The Council of State being willing
to prevent the said disorders, was de-
sirous to have the monie of this Com-
monwealth well coyned; and therefore
having seen the patterns of coyn made
after a new Invention by the said *Blon-
deau*, and having treated by Letters about
the quantitie of pieces that could bee
coyned in a week, and what they might
cost; the said Council, caused the said
Blondeau the Inventor of that way of
coyning, to com to *London*, to treat
with him by word of mouth, and to
agree about the price of coyning the
monie of this Common-wealth after
his way. Hee beeing then arrived at
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fic him for his journie, both coming

and returning, and for the time hee

should have lost, and would bestow on

him such a present, that hee would re-

turn satisfied. A while after, the saied

Council of State ordered the Com-

mittee of the Council of State for the

Mint to hear the saied *Blondeau's* Propo-

sition, and report it to the saied Council.

The Committee for the Mint accor-

dingly took into consideration, whe-

ther the saied *Blondeau* should bee admit-

ted to coyn the monie of this Common-

wealth; and having debated it, they

resolved and approoved that he should be

admitted thereunto, provided his coyn

and his Proposition should bee advan-

tagious to the State.

Afterwards the saied Committee ha-

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ed and Voted, that the said waie of coyn
ing propounded by the said *Blondeau*, was
better, more advantagious and more
honorable for the State, then that which
is used now in this Common-wealth.

The Master, the Officers and the work
men of the Mint told the Committee,
it was not likely the said *Blondeau* had
don himself, the pieces sent by him to the
Council of State. Besides, that it was
an old Invention, which they knew
themselves, and that such pieces were one
ly made for curiositie, with very long
time and great expence, and that it was
impossible, that that waie might bee used
about the ordinarie coyn, which is thin.
They desired that the said *Blondeau* might
bee commanded to make a trial of his
skill by making som other pieces, and
that they would do as much as the said
Blondeau.

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said *Blon*
all the Objections
against it, both by
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the said Committee conclud
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Blondeau. There are the said Committee ordered both the said *Blondeau* and the said workmen to make their patterns and Propositions actively; and that hee that would do it with most advantage to the State should have the Employment.

At the time appointed the workmen brought to the Council some pieces made after the old waie, which is known to them, and some big pieces of Silver, stuffed within with copper; but they had drawn no Propositions.

Likewise the said *Blondeau* brought in about 300 pieces, some half-crowns of the ordinarie weight and bigness, some shillings, sixpences, and some Gold pieces, and presented his Proposition, which having been reformed according to the pleasure of the said Committee, it was received and accepted of by the whole Committee, who ordered it to be reported to the Council of State, according to the order of the said Council.

The said Committee having then taken into consideration the big pieces of Silver at the outside, and stuffed within with copper (made with the Engines that

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understood that the
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one of copper and one of Silver at the
top, another underneath and one about,
the which ought to be adjusted and so-
dered together, besides several other
fashions, which cost more then the
price of the lawful pieces; having
also considered the great and heave
Engins, and great number of tools
and of men required for making of
one piece, the great charges for the En-
gins and tools and several other things
required for making of those counter-
fitted pieces, they acknowledged that
it would be enough to dissuade anie
one from undertaking it; the rich not
being willing, and the poor being un-
able; and that though they should under-
take it they could not do it without be-
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ing discovered. Besides, that the monie
coyned after the w of the said *Blondeau*
was so thin, it cannot bee so
counterfeined.

Whereupon it is to be seen, that the
said workmen of the said *Blondeau*, although
they made use of the said heavie
Engins, that are in the said *Blondeau*, yet for
making of som Tools need of,
and for the other charges concerning a-
bout a dozen of pieces, they made then
for a pattern, have spent 100 l. st. as hee
that pretend's to have laid out the monie
hath said before witnesses.

Afterwards, another order was given
by the said Committee, and som time li-
mited to the said workmen, to draw and
present their Proposition for coyning of
the monie marked upon the thickness or
edge, as that of the said *Blondeau* is ;
But after the expiracion of the long time
demanded by them, they brought such a
Proposition, that the said Committee
having read it over and over , could
not understand it, nor the sens of it ;
and even those that brought it could
not explain it ; whereby it was apparent
to the said Committee, that they were
not

not able to make their Proposition
 good, much less to have the monie after
 that waie; whereupon they avowed them-
 selves before the Committee. Yet
 they intreated the Committee to allow
 them the six months more to
 finde, if they could find any new invention, and
 that the said *Blondeau's* Proposition
 should be presented unto them, up-
 on which they might frame their own.
 They further demanded that the said
Blondeau and the Graver, should have or-
 der to bring in all the pieces made by the
 said *Blondeau* for a trial, with the stamps
 or dices used for making of them; All
 which was granted them, upon that con-
 dition, that if within the time allowed
 them, they could finde out the means to
 coyn the monie after the said *Blondeau's*
 waie, and that thereupon hee should bee
 sent back, hee should bee indamnified,
 which was agreed by all. But they
 could never finde out the said new Inven-
 tion for coyning the thin & weak pieces
 after that waie with expedition requisite.
 Yet for all that, they made their Propo-
 sitions, which are in the hands of the Chair-
 man of the Committee, as are also the
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Masters, and that a
hardly 30 Masters, w
lands or houses, and other waies of
maintenance, without the work of the
Mint. And that when they had much
monie to coyn, they were wonted to hire
som journe-men, giving to som 18
pence, to som 15 and to som 12 for half
a daies work. Besides, in case the State
admits of the said Blondeau to coyn the
monie after his waie, and the workmen
bee willing to work after the said waie,
hee will oblige himself to teach them
and paie them a reasonable price.

The said Blondeau doth not intend to
have the Gold nor the Silver in his
custodie, but onely the charge of work-
ing the same, by such persons as the State
shall

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to bee reported by
State.

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such as the State

In a word, hee shal generally submit
to whatsoever the State shall think rea-
sonable. Onely he prays to consider, that

1. The exact equalitie, that will bee
effected by this waie and invention of the
said *Blondeau*, will hinder and avoid all
the known corrupt Practices about coyn-
ing.

2. The charge of the State concerning
the same, considering all circumstances,
will bee less then in the old waie; and
the honor of this Common-wealth
much the greater, in having their monies
coyned in perfection, above, or beyond
any other State now known.

3. The said *Blondeau* came to London a-
bout 3 years and a half since, and hath no
other employment here, but to attend the
pleasure of the State.

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